

AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE
Year ending 31st December, 1908.



Stourbridge :
J. T. FORD, PRINTER, LITHOGRAPHER AND STATIONER,
—1909.—

AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS.

CHAIRMAN - Councillor JAMES ROUND.

VICE-CHAIRMAN - Councillor GEORGE DAVIS.

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Councillor G. F. JAMES,

„ ALFRED DAVIES,

„ J. P. HITCHINGS,

Councillor H. BOOTH,

„ A. H. GUEST,

„ GEO. PERCY PITT,

Councillor C. E. EDWARDS.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. D'ARCY ELLIS.

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Clerk :

ROWLAND MOORE.

—: o :—

Surveyor :

JEREMIAH SKIDMORE.

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Sanitary Inspector :

HAROLD PIPER.

AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1908.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Amblecote
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

As I think the population of the district has remained stationary during the past year, the Vital Statistics are again calculated upon a population of 3,329, the same as for the year 1907.

Eighty-two persons were born in the district, of whom 34 were males, 48 females.

The Birth-rate for the year 1908 is therefore 24·6 per 1,000 of the population, as against a Birth-rate of 26·4 for the year 1907.

The mean average Birth-rate for the past ten years is 26·3.

Seventy-three deaths were registered as having occurred within the district during the year. Four deaths have to be added of persons belonging to the district who died at the Union House outside the district, and 23 deaths have to be deducted which occurred at the Corbett Hospital, within the district, amongst persons not belonging thereto.

The number of persons who died belonging to the district is therefore 54, of whom 26 were males and 28 were females.

The corrected Death-rate for the year 1908 is 16·2 per 1,000 of the population, that of the preceding year being 14·4.

The mean average Death-rate for the previous ten years is 15·5 per 1,000 of the population.

The Zymotic Death-rate is 2·4 per 1,000 of the population, for the year 1907 it was 1·5.

The mean average for the previous ten years is 0·9.

The Infantile Mortality is 146 per 1,000 registered births. For the year 1907 it was 136.

Synopsis of Birth and Death-rates in Amblecote District, County of Stafford, and England and Wales :—

1908.	Average Rates per 1,000 living.			Infantile Mortality.
	Birth-rate.	General Death-rate.	Death-rate from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	
Amblecote (corrected) ..	24·6	16·2	2·4	146
England and Wales ..	26·5	14·7	1·2	121
76 Great Towns ..	27·0	14·9	1·5	128
142 Smaller Towns ..	26·0	14·0	1·2	124
England and Wales—less 218 Towns.. ..	26·2	14·7	0·9	110
County of Stafford—General ..	29·7	14·7	1·4	128
1907 { Urban	30·9	15·2	1·6	136
{ Rural	25·7	12·9	0·7	98
Amblecote	26·4	14·4	1·5	136

Notifications of Infectious Disease.

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Scarlet Fever.—22 cases, 1 death.

Scarlet Fever has been troublesome throughout the year. Two cases at one house occurred in January. The next case occurred in March, and then they followed on, cases occurring every month throughout the year with the exception of August. With one ex-

ception they all occurred in children under ten years of age, most of them amongst the children attending at the Infant School. The disease was prevalent in the adjoining districts. The infection came chiefly from the part of Brettell Lane which lies in the Wordsley district. I visited the Infant School on several occasions and examined the registers with a view to tracing any mild cases that had escaped notification. The Schools were also fumigated and disinfected during the holidays.

Five of the cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital at Kingswinford.

Diphtheria.—2 cases, no deaths.

One of these cases occurred at a farm-house at Amblecote. There was a serious nuisance from drainage on land adjoining the house, this has since been abated. The case was isolated at home, and all the family were treated with Antitoxin Serum. As the case was a severe one, I think the injection of Serum prevented the other members of the family from taking the disease.

The other case notified was of a very mild type and resided at Dennis Street. There was no question of contact between this and the previous case.

The increase in the zymotic death-rate is due to an outbreak of Diarrhœa which occurred during September. Serious sanitary defects were discovered where some of these cases occurred. They have since received attention, and the nuisances complained of have been abated.

The chief occupation of the population is glass making and glass polishing. There is a liability to lead poisoning. One death occurred from this cause, and two other cases were notified.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—The working classes are well provided for. A few old properties exist, but they have received attention and the sanitary condition is much improved. There is plenty of open space and the surroundings are fairly clean.

Part i.—No action has been necessary.

Part ii.—No houses found unfit for habitation.

Part iii.—There are no lodging houses in the district.

Water Supply.—The district is supplied by the Stourbridge Water Co. The supply is continuous, of good quality, and there is no risk of pollution. There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action.

Milk Supply.—This is obtained from local farmers, some having their cowsheds inside the district. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshop Order is in force in the district, and each owner has received a copy of the Regulations. The character and wholesomeness is good. No analysis has been made to ascertain if any of it is tuberculous. The cowsheds are inspected regularly, but the regulations are not obeyed as strictly as they might be. There is, however, some improvement. They are all supplied with the Company's water.

Other Foods.—No action has been necessary under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. There are two private slaughter-houses in good condition which the Sanitary Inspector reports as being well kept. No case of Tuberculosis has been found. The County Inspector takes samples under The Food and Drugs Act. There have been no prosecutions.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The district has a very good system of deep drainage, provided with automatic flushing tanks. There is one locality at Holloway End, a low-lying part of the district adjoining the River Stour, which is unprovided for. There is some pollution of the river at this point, from the house drainage and factories.

Excrement Disposal and House Refuse.—The system in vogue is by contract. There has been no complaint.

Nuisances.—The district is regularly inspected. An informal notice is first given, and time allowed, if that is not sufficient a statutory notice follows. No prosecutions have been necessary.

The Inspector reports 81 conversions of privies to water closets, 60 remain, which it is possible to connect with the public sewers, and will be attended to during the ensuing year.

Bye-Laws.—The Model Bye-laws have been adopted.

Schools.—There are two public elementary schools, an Infant School and a Mixed School. Both are in good sanitary condition and supplied with the company's water.

Prevention of infectious disease, by notice to teacher, isolation and disinfection.

Infectious Diseases.—By the Notification Act, 1889.—Isolation at the Kingswinford Hospital, which is both sufficient and efficient. The houses are fumigated and disinfected.

Tuberculosis.—No system of notification except in the case of paupers. No cases been notified. In case of death, fumigation and disinfection of the sick room. No hospital accommodation in the district.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 25 factories and 28 workshops in the district. Three notices have been given to abate nuisances. The sanitary condition is generally satisfactory

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

March 23rd, 1909.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—There are 6 Cowsheds in this district and it has been necessary to serve 4 notices requiring defects (accumulations of manure, bad pervious floor, &c.) to be remedied. One cowshed was closed entirely and a new one built to replace same.

Slaughter-houses.—In this district there are 2 Registered Slaughter-houses, and these have been fairly well kept. The notices served were in respect of limewashing and accumulations of manure.

Ashpits and Privies.—Considerable progress has been made during the year with the wiping out of the old privy middens. 81 conversions to water closets have been made, as against 67 of last year. Notices have also been served in respect of several more.

I find that in 1905, 26 conversions were made, and 22 in 1906. This is as far back as I have any data. As far as I can ascertain there are about 60 privies still uncovered where there is sewer accommodation, and about 39 where such accommodation does not exist (exclusive of Factories and Workshops).

The close of 1909 should see greater part of these replaced by water closets.

Offensive Trades.—An offensive business in connection with the making of sausage skins was established without the consent of the Council, in unsuitable premises near the canal wharf. This was however discontinued after a short time without the necessity of taking legal proceedings.

Refuse Removal.—This work has been performed during the year by the Contractor in a manner most creditable to himself and the Council. There have not been more than 3 complaints made, and neither of these was of any note.

HAROLD PIPER,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

26th February, 1909.



TABLE I.

Local Government Board. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.
URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths in Non- Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
				Num- ber.	Rate per 1000 Births Regis- tered.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	3,050	70	27.7	11	157	67	21.9	13	13	4	58	19.0
1899	3,075	82	26.6	15	182	70	22.7	15	15	3	58	18.8
1900	3,100	70	22.5	12	171	64	22.6	19	19	2	46	14.8
1901	3,128	98	31.3	14	143	70	21.7	18	16	4	58	18.5
1902	3,158	87	27.5	13	149	69	22.4	30	28	2	43	13.6
1903	3,236	82	25.3	11	134	60	18.5	26	26	3	37	11.4
1904	3,282	83	25.2	11	131	54	16.7	22	22	1	55	16.7
1905	3,313	84	25.3	5	59	57	17.2	26	24	4	37	11.1
1906	3,329	87	26.1	11	126	74	22.2	19	18	2	56	16.8
1907	3,329	88	26.4	12	136	65	19.5	20	20	3	48	14.4
Averages for years, 1898-1907	3,200	83	26.3	11	138	65	20.5	20	20	2	49	15.5
1908	3,329	82	24.6	12	146	77	23.1	23	23	4	52	12.6

* Rates in cols. 4, 8 & 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 665.

Total Population at all ages .. 3,128 }
Number of inhabited houses .. 656 } At Census
Average number of Persons per house 4.7 } of 1901.

TABLE III.

Local Government Board. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.
 URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 & up- wards.	
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous croup) ..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	22	..	6	15	1	..	..	5
Totals ..	24	..	8	15	1	..	..	5

TABLE IV.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths, whether of Residents or Non-residents, in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	16
I								
Scarlet Fever	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other tuberculous diseases ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer, malignant disease ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis	8	1	..	..	..	3	4	..
Pneumonia	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Premature Birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	6	..	..	..	..	5	1	..
Accidents .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
All other causes	22	5	2	..	..	6	9	12
All causes	54	12	10	..	1	17	14	23

TABLE V.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	3-4 months.	6-7 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes—Certified ..	3	3	2	4	1	1	1	12
Diarrhœal Diseases—								
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	3
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Wasting Diseases—								
Premature Birth ..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Congenital Defects ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Other causes—								
Convulsions ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Total ..	3	3	2	4	1	1	1	12

District of Amblecote.—Population (estimated to middle of 1908), 3,329.

Births in the year, legitimate, 82 ; illegitimate, none.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 12 ; illegitimate infants, none.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 54.

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE.

**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND
HOMEWORK.**

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.					Number of	
					Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories	..	..	..	..	25	..
Workshops	..	..	..	..	28	2
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total					54	2

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.			Number of Defects.	
			Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Sanitary accommodation	{	insufficient		
		unsuitable or defective ..	3	3
		not separate for sexes ..		
		Total ..	3	3

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Wheelwrights and Carpenters	4
Crate-making Shops	2
Boot Repairing	2
Dressmaking	3
Blacksmith	1
Retail Bakehouses	3
Brewing and Malting	4
Glass Decorating	2
Glass Packing, &c.	5
Miscellaneous	2
Total number of Workshops on Register ..	28

Signed,

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

Done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1908, in the Urban District of Amblecote.

		Number of		Abate- ment Notices.		Notices complied with.	
		Inspections and Observa- tions made.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector	Authority.
Dwelling- houses and Schools.	Brought from 1907 ..		13				13
	Foul Conditions ..		23	5	1	19	
	Structural Defects ..		3	1	1	1	
	Overcrowding ..	64	1	1		1	
	Brought from 1907 ..	1	1		1		1
	Unfit for Habitation ..						
	Lodging Houses ..						
	Dairies and Milkshops ..	8					
	Cowsheds ..	22	4	4		4	
	Bakehouses ..	11					
House Drainage.	Slaughter-houses ..	55	4	3		4	
	Canal Boats ..						
	Brought from 1907 ..		6				6
	Ashpits and Privies ..	244	135	39	66	59	22
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure ..	5	4	4		4	
	Water Closets ..	185	11	8	2	8	2
	Defective Traps ..		43	21	23	18	9
	No Disconnection ..	255	1	1		1	
	Other Faults ..		13	9	4	9	4
	Water Supply ..	4	9	1	8	1	1
	Pigsties ..	1	1		1		1
	Animals improperly kept ..	4	1		1		1
	Offensive Trades ..	14	1	1		1	
	Smoke Nuisances ..						
	Brought from 1907 ..		4				4
	Other Nuisances ..	47	47	15	12	21	4
	Totals ..	920	325	113	120	151	68
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ..							2
" " condemned as unfit for use ..							2
<i>Precautions Against Infectious Disease.</i>							
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ..							20

HAROLD PIPER,

26th February, 1909.

Inspector of Nuisances.

